

**Lieutenant Governor
Katherine L. Davis, Director**
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ONE NORTH CAPITOL, SUITE 700
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
TEL 317 232 8800
Fax 317 232 5123
www.indianacommerce.com

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Media Contact: Angie Dye, Indiana Department of Commerce, 317.232.2464
Weston Sedgwick, Indiana Department of Commerce, 317.232.8873

Davis announces \$655,000 grant to train workers in east central Indiana

HARTFORD CITY, Ind.—Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today announced that BRC Rubber and Plastics Inc. would receive a training grant valued at nearly \$655,000 from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Community Economic Development Fund.

"The state of Indiana is helping Hoosier businesses become more competitive in the marketplace," said Davis, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director of Commerce. "These grants give employees immediate access to the latest skills using new and improved equipment. This investment benefits both the business community and our state's workforce."

Commerce awards Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in transferable and company-specific skills necessary to support these projects. This Housing and Urban Development funded grant will train 354 employees in five BRC facilities around the state.

"The grant to BRC will provide training for local workers to increase their skill levels, which will in turn increase their earning potential. The community will then benefit from increased spending in the community," Hartford City Mayor Dennis Whitesell said. "This state funding is beneficial for everybody involved – the workers, the corporation and the community."

BRC Rubber and Plastics is a full-service development and engineering company specializing in rubber and plastics. This company develops and certifies rubber compounds, mixes rubber, and molds rubber to metal-based components. These products are used in applications such as engine, chassis, suspension and driveline systems for various customers in the automotive industry.

"We are extremely pleased with the news that BRC has been approved for a very generous training grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce," said Charles Chaffee, CEO of BRC Rubber and Plastics Inc.

BRC/add one

Chaffee said the manufacturing plants, all located in northeast Indiana, will put the grant money to good use in training and developing both the current and new employees.

"The training monies from this grant will play a key role in helping us to assure the future jobs of our employees," Chaffee said. "We are extremely grateful for the combined efforts in helping BRC obtain this grant."

The CEDF training grant will allow BRC to train its employees in a variety of different areas including quality improvement skills, transferable skills and English as a second language.

Region 8 Director Greg Beumer said that BRC is an excellent example of how the State's economic development strategy, through its Energize Indiana initiative, can be used to provide job-training opportunities for Indiana workers.

"The cooperation that developed between Commerce and the management of BRC Rubber and Plastics helped to find a creative solution to job training needs in Indiana," Beumer said.

Since January, Commerce grants have helped support the creation of more than 11,228 new jobs and have leveraged more than \$2.2 billion in private investment throughout the state.

Companies interested in learning more about these or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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